is an illustration of our author's lucid and, at the same time, thorough treatment of his subject. The various affections are treated of also from an advanced modern standpoint; conflicting theories and passing observations are submitted to a wise criticism through which the author's own large and varied experience is very apparent.

An attractive aspect of the work is the excellent character of the illustrations, which, as they are in great part original, will be a pleasing relief to the hackneyed cuts which have for

so long passed from book to book in English works.

Pursuing the via media in the important question of treatment, neither displaying the pessimism which too many maladies of the nervous system would seem to justify, nor an optimism so flagrant as to savor of quackery, Prof. Hirt is a safe guide in the highways and byways of neurotherapeutics.

And, lastly, I think the author has been fairly handled by his translators, who, bearing in mind the admonition of Dryden, "not to lackey by the side of his author, but to mount up behind him," have given a clear and interesting rendering of the

original.

WILLIAM OSLER.

BALTIMORE.

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DISEASES OF THE BRAIN AND ITS MENINGES, INCLUDING THE CRANIAL NERVES.

THE study of brain diseases, we must confess, has not made the strides that might have been expected after the numerous and varied researches that the last decades have seen. For this our present very imperfect knowledge of the anatomy, and still more our doubts as to the physiological functions of the different parts of the brain must be held largely responsible. The structure as well as the physiological functions of the human brain are, up to the present time, so little understood that we are far from having any sure basis upon which to lay the foundations of a cerebral pathology. No small progress has been made from an anatomical standpoint through Stilling's method of serial sections, a method which Meynert, Henle, Wernicke, and others have not been slow to use, in their admirable researches, to which important additions have been made by the embryological studies of Flechsig, and by the method of "arrested development" used by Gudden and his pupils (atrophy method; Degenerationsmethode, Schwalbe); but with all this we have only here and there single stones which we have not as yet been able to combine for the construction of a harmonious whole. Brilliant from a physiological standpoint as was the discovery of Fritsch and Hitzig (1870) of the electrical irritability of the cortex, and of the existence of motor regions therein, unexpected as were the results which the experimental method of Munk brought to light, extraordinary and interesting as are the conclusions based upon the clinical and post-mortem observations of Charcot and his schoolall these, wide-reaching and admirable as they were, are far